

**ILLINOIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO  
THE U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS  
MEETING MINUTES**

February 8, 2017

The Illinois Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Committee) convened via conference call to finalize the list of panelists and discuss outreach for the public hearing on voting rights. Juan Carlos Linares chaired the meeting according to the agenda items identified. The Chair performed a roll call of committee members present. The meeting was open to the public and took place from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM CST.

**State Advisory Committee Members:**

*Present:*

1. Joanna Bohdziewicz-Borowiec
2. Richard Garcia
3. Reyahd Kazmi
4. Juan Carlos Linares (Chair)
5. Malik Nevels
6. Evelyn Rodriguez

*Absent:*

1. Johnathan Bean
2. James Botana
3. Cindy Buys
4. Kendric Cobb
5. Trevor Copeland
6. Tabassum Haleem
7. William Howard
8. Bryant Jackson-Green
9. Sweta Shah
10. Anne Wortham

**Commission Staff present:**

- David Mussatt, Chief - RPCU
- Victoria Moreno, USCCR intern

**Members of the Public present:**

- None identified

**Meeting Notes/Decisions Made:**

Approval of Minutes

- Committee moved to approve minutes from January 20, 2017
  - Joanna Bohdziewicz-Borowiec moved to approve the minutes
  - Richard Garcia seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously by a voice vote

Discussion on Panelists:

The Committee reviewed the most recent list of speakers and discussed the areas that need further outreach, including creating a plan for alternates if primary speakers are not available. Primary speakers are to be given a final deadline for confirmation of February 13<sup>th</sup>, at which point alternates will be contacted.

- a. Panel 1, Legal and Academic Research:

- i. All primary speakers are confirmed. Intern will continue to follow-up regarding abstracts
  - b. Panel 2, Voting and Incarceration:
    - i. Professor Christina Rivers will need to leave after her testimony. The Committee Chair will make an announcement at the start of the panel that Q&A will take place for her after her presentation.
    - ii. As Sheriff Dart is unavailable, Richard Garcia suggested Dr. Cara Smith as an alternate. Committee strongly agrees the perspective of the Sheriff's office is important to the hearing. Intern to follow up on outreach.
  - c. Panel 3, Language Access:
    - i. All primary speakers are confirmed. Intern will follow up regarding abstracts
  - d. Panel 4, Voting Across Social Groups:
    - i. Committee Chair offered to follow up with Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. Committee members agreed on representatives from La Casa Norte and LUCHA as alternates, if needed.
    - ii. Evelyn Rodriguez agreed to follow up with NAACP, if needed. Committee members suggested the following alternates: Chicago Urban League (Evelyn would reach out), Operation PUSH, Cook County Bar Association, and Juan Thomas of the National Bar Association (Malik Nevels would reach out)
    - iii. Intern to follow up on abstracts from other speakers
  - e. Panel 5, Government Perspectives:
    - i. Intern waiting on confirmation from Karyn Bass Ehler of the Civil Rights Bureau of the Attorney General's Office and Brent Davis of the Illinois State Board of Elections
    - ii. Reyahd Kazmi suggested Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White and will reach out to him
    - iii. Committee agreed to include a conservative perspective on this panel. Committee Chair suggested Champaign County Clerk Gordy Hulten as primary speaker, with the DuPage County Board of Elections as alternate.
    - iv. Intern will follow up on outreach and abstracts.
2. Outreach
- a. Committee asked Intern to re-send final versions of flyer and press release
  - b. Committee will reach out to media
  - c. Draft of Kansas voting rights report will be shared with Committee

#### Next Meeting

- The Committee's next meeting will take place on March 6, 2017 at Noon (CST) via teleconference to discuss updates and status on outreach.

#### Open Comment

At the conclusion of the meeting, public lines were opened for comment. No public comment was received.

*Next meeting*

March 6, 2017 at 12:00 pm (CST).

Meeting Adjourned

1:00 PM CST